

**United States
Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management
Eugene District Office**

Categorical Exclusion Documentation

Categorical Exclusion No. DOI-BLM-ORE060-2010-00023-CX
MOU-090-2010-003

A. Background

Location of Proposed Action: T. 18S., R. 1E., Section 25, SE¼, W.M.

Description of Proposed Action: To enter into MOU-090-2010-003 with the U.S. Geological Survey. The USGS would like to install a gaging station on Fall Creek for the purpose of measuring stream temperature and stage for inflows into Fall Creek Lake. The gage would be installed on the western bank of Fall Creek with buried conduit extending into the creek. After removal of the gaging station the site will be returned to its current natural condition.

Project Design Features:

- Retain standing trees.
- Install a 3.5' deep by 4' wide by 7' tall metal enclosure that will house a satellite transmitter, line-of-site radio, stage and water temperature sensors, and batteries. This will entail drilling into the rock outcrop and installing permanent wedge anchors.
- Install a 1 ½" diameter steel pipe mast, approximately 10' high, to hold solar panel and satellite, line-of-site and GPS antennas. This may require digging a trench less than 20' in length and approximately 12" by 12" to bury conduit. Digging will be avoided if possible and will be done manually, with hand tools, if unavoidable.
- Digging a 12" to 18" deep trench for conduit that extends from the metal enclosure down to the left bank of Fall Creek. The conduit will house an orifice line needed for operation of the stage sensor. Any digging will be done manually with hand tools.
- Impact will be minimal and confined to the general vicinity of the proposed site.
- No surface treatments will be applied.
- Use existing roads and skids (no new road construction is anticipated).
- Staging area will be the existing parking area.

B. Land Use Plan Conformance

This project is in conformance the 1995 Record of Decision for Amendments to Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management Planning Documents within the Range of the Northern Spotted Owl (Northwest Forest Plan {NSO-ROD} USDA Forest Service and USDI Bureau of Land Management, April 1994), and the 1995 Eugene District Resource Management Plan (1995 RMP) including the 2007 Record of Decision To Remove the Survey and Manage Mitigation Measure Standards and Guidelines from Bureau of Land Management Resource Management Plans within the Range of the Northern Spotted Owl.

C. Compliance with NEPA

The Proposed Action is categorically excluded from further documentation under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) in accordance with 516 DM 2, Appendix 3 (1.6), “Nondestructive data collection, inventory (including field, aerial, and satellite surveying and mapping), study, research, and monitoring activities”.

This categorical exclusion is appropriate in this situation because the proposed action is in accordance with 516 DM 2, Appendix 3 (1.6) and there are no extraordinary circumstances potentially having effects that may significantly affect the environment. The Eugene District has reviewed the proposed action, and none of the extraordinary circumstances described in 516 DM2 apply.

D. Categorical Exclusions Extraordinary Circumstances Documentation

THE PROPOSED CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION ACTION WILL:		YES	NO
1.	Have significant impacts on public health or safety.		X
2.	Have significant impacts on such natural resources and unique geographic characteristics as historic or cultural resources; park, recreation or refuge lands; wilderness areas; wild or scenic rivers; national natural landmarks; sole or principal drinking water aquifers; prime farmlands; wetlands (Executive Order 11990); floodplains (Executive Order 11988); national monuments; migratory birds; and other ecologically significant or critical areas.		X
3.	Have highly controversial environmental effects or involve unresolved conflicts concerning alternative uses of available resources [NEPA Section 102(2)(E)].		X
4.	Have highly uncertain and potentially significant environmental effects or involve unique or unknown environmental risks.		X
5.	Establish a precedent for future action or represent a decision in principle about future actions with potentially significant environmental effects.		X
6.	Have a direct relationship to other actions with individually insignificant but cumulatively significant environmental effects.		X
7.	Have significant impacts on properties listed, or eligible for listing, on the National Register of Historic Places as determined by either the bureau or office.		X
8.	Have significant impacts on species listed, or proposed to be listed, as an Endangered or Threatened Species, or have significant impacts on designated Critical Habitat for these species.		X
9.	Violate a Federal law, or a State, local, or tribal law or requirement imposed for the protection of the environment.		X
10.	Have a disproportionately high and adverse effect on low income or minority populations (Executive Order 2898).		X

THE PROPOSED CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION ACTION WILL:		YES	NO
11.	Limit access to and ceremonial use of Indian sacred sites on Federal lands by Indian religious practitioners or significantly adversely affect the physical integrity of such sacred sites (Executive Order 13007).		X
12.	Contribute to the introduction, continued existence, or spread of noxious weeds or non-native invasive species known to occur in the area or actions that may promote the introduction, growth, or expansion of the range of such species (Federal Noxious Weed Control Act and Executive Order 13112).		X

E. Decision Review

Prepared by: Richard Norris Date: _____
Land Law Examiner

Reviewed by: Christie Hardenbrook Date: _____
Planning & Environmental Coordinator

F. Approval

I have reviewed this CE, plan conformance and NEPA compliance review and have determined the proposed project is in conformance with the approved land use plan and that no further environmental analysis is required. It is my decision to implement the project as described.

William O'Sullivan Date: _____
Upper Willamette Field Manager

G. Contact Person and Reviewers

For additional information concerning this Categorical Exclusion review, contact Tracy Maahs, Eugene District Realty Specialist, (541) 683-6376.

H. Administrative Remedies

Notice of this decision will be posted on the District internet website. The action is subject to appeal to the Interior Board of Land Appeals under 43 CFR Part 4. The decision is effective upon signing by the authorized officer and shall remain in effect pending an appeal (43 CFR Part 2801.10).